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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
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New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Working Group III
Agenda item 3

PRINCIPLES ON GENERAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Note verbale dated 10 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and has the honour to forward the enclosed statement of general principles of international environmental law, adopted by the Special Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee on Environment and Development, held in Islamabad on 1 February 1992. It is requested that this document be circulated as an official document under agenda item 3 (Principles on general rights and obligations) of Working Group III.

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ANNEX

Statement of general principles of international environmental law

Adopted by the Special Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee on Environment and Development, Islamabad, 1 February 1992*

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, after an exchange of views on legal aspects of environment and development, affirms:

(a) That the environment is the common concern of mankind and that the environment and development are intrinsically and inextricably linked;

(b) That the principle of sustainable development shall be given due effect, and development shall not be pursued in such a manner as would endanger the environment;

(c) That all members of the international community shall ensure that no appreciable or significant harm is caused to the environment and that the environment does not suffer severe and irreversible degradation;

(d) That the responsibility of member States of the international community shall be [common but differentiated] [differentiated] and the application and enforcement of environmental standards by the developing countries shall be in accordance with their respective capabilities and responsibilities;

(e) The need to protect intergeneration equities within the context of the progressive development and codification of international environmental law;

(f) That the developed countries, in the interest of the common future of mankind and the protection and preservation of the environment, seriously consider making available to the developing countries [new] [adequate] and environmentally sound technologies on a [preferential and non-commercial] [most favourable] basis;

(g) That the developed countries, international and regional organizations and financial institutions consider, explore and where necessary make provision for [new] additional and adequate financial resources to the developing countries to meet the objectives of sustainable development and the protection and preservation of the environment;

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* While adopting the statement, the Committee, inter alia, agreed to place certain terms and expressions in brackets so as to accommodate the concerns of some delegations.

(h) That the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should accord priority to the improvement and strengthening of the existing institutional mechanisms relating to environment and development in the United Nations system and to enhancing their better cooperation and coordination;

(i) That any instrument to be adopted by the Conference should include appropriate provision for the peaceful settlement of disputes.